

# BIA Grants Kotzebue \$80,000 for Housing

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The Bureau of Indian Affairs has made available \$80,000 for providing housing for eight families at Kotzebue under the Housing Improvement Program. Construction is scheduled to begin early July, the time when materials are expected to arrive.

Families to receive the housing will be selected from low income groups on the basis of need. The reason that new units will be built, rather than improvement grants given for present dwellings, is due to the sizable number of houses which are so substandard that they are beyond improvement without great expense.

At the request of the BIA, the Kotzebue City Council created the housing committee last spring to assist in planning for the project.

Tentative plans were revealed by the housing committee last December 30. Each unit is to measure 32 ft. by 24 ft. with a capacity of up to eight occupants. The house design calls for three bedrooms with an adjoining dog shelter and storage or snowmachine service area.

Members of the eight-man housing committee are George Conwell, Jack Jones, Emery Harris, Lorenzo Kelly, Don Lee, Steve Salinas, Jacob Stalker, and Del Stanton.

Several other aspects of the program were discussed by George Ashby, BIA Representative to the committee. Recipients of the housing will construct the units with their own labor and on their own land.

Special adult education classes for the men involved in the project will provide training for construction of the houses.

Mr. Ashby also indicated the possibility that the program may eventually be expanded to provide low cost materials for other area residents who desire housing improvement.

He also stated, in response to a question concerning responsibility for the program, that final

determination on details of construction and design would rest with the Kotzebue BIA Housing Committee.

The committee met again last January 11 in Kotzebue with interested families and BIA officials to inform the community of plans for the program and open them to discussion and suggestions.